

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN
HOMESTEAD/DAVENPORT LAKE ALLOTMENTS
WILLIAMS RANGER DISTRICT – KAIBAB NATIONAL FOREST

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I. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

There are two aspects concerning goals and objectives of grazing management on the Homestead/Davenport Lake allotments and they are to 1) provide forage for domestic livestock as directed by the Forest Plan, and 2) maintain or improve range conditions on both allotments with special attention being placed on increasing the cool season plant component within the Davenport Lake allotment.

II. MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Homestead Allotment will be managed as a cow/calf operation under a four-pasture rest rotation grazing system, with one pasture being rested once every four years. Under this management, the pasture that was rested the past year will be used first the following year. There are 125 cattle permitted, and the season of use is May 1 through October 31. Allowable use in key areas is 40 percent. On years that the White House pasture is scheduled for grazing in the spring, the number of days of use during the spring and early summer months will be reduced by 5 days to provide additional recovery time for cool season plants.

The Davenport Lake Allotment will be managed under a five-pasture deferred rotation grazing system, with 145 head of cattle permitted. A new pasture division fence will be installed (cattle guard was installed in 2004) for improved livestock distribution on Depot pasture. The construction of this new fence will also help facilitate resting the other pastures by using the newly created unit at the beginning of the grazing season for 4 out of 5 years for a short period (15-20 days) before being moved to other pastures within the rotation. This early short grazing period would nearly eliminate any "re-use" on cool-season plant growth within the newly created Depot pasture, while providing for early deferment of these species in the other pastures. Average allowable use in key areas would remain at 30 percent throughout the Davenport Lake allotment.

To insure that livestock activities do not impact the ephemeral wetlands, temporary fencing may need to be constructed around them to insure that livestock do not utilize these areas until adequate drying has occurred. ("Ten days after standing water has dissipated"). This fencing will be installed and maintained by the Forest Service.

In addition, to facilitate livestock operations, a new holding pasture will be constructed. The establishment of this pasture involves an exchange in the use of several small grazing areas within the Davenport Lake Allotment (totaling about 315 acres), for the use of 420 acres in the adjacent

Sitgreaves Allotment. This reflects an agreement in the exchange of use between grazing permit holders and does entail allotment boundary adjustments. The 315 acres of "exchanged use" lands used by the Sitgreaves Allotment permit holder would be managed with the same average utilization as the other key areas in the Davenport Lake Allotment (30%). This exchange of lands is a permanent action covered in the allotment NEPA.

All range improvements assigned to the permittee (see attached improvement listing), need to be maintained in order to facilitate proper management of these two allotments.

The grazing schedule identified on form R3-2200-19, is a guide, and should be followed as close as possible in order to obtain the goals and objectives specified above.

III. LIVESTOCK DISTRIBUTION AIDS

All developed waters within the Homestead and Davenport Lake Allotments should be maintained in order to help distribute livestock effectively throughout the allotments. As currently established, the use of water hauls within the Depot and Butler pastures should continue when warranted. Installation of new water haul locations, and placement of salt or other supplements, should be considered in areas of light use to encourage improved livestock distribution.

Little Hitson and Partnership Tanks are the responsibility of the Homestead allotment permittee and can be used by the Sitgreaves allotment livestock at times when there is ample water for livestock on both allotments, and Homestead livestock are not using these two tanks.

As mentioned in the "*Management Strategy*" section, splitting the Depot pasture is needed to improve livestock distribution within this pasture as well as to allow for improved cool season forage plant rest during early spring months throughout the rest of the allotment.

IV. RANGE IMPROVEMENT CONSTRUCTION PRIORITY

A. Structural Improvements

1. Depot division fence – construct approximately 1.5 miles of fence to split the Depot pasture. Cattle guard has been installed (10/04) to facilitate fence construction. Materials are on hand at the Williams Ranger Station. Permittee is to install the fence in 2006.

2. Forest Road 71 cattle guard -- install cattle guard on FS road 71 between the Davenport Lake allotment and Sitgreaves allotment. Forest Service will supply the cattle guard and earthen materials and the permittee will install it using materials that will support local traffic.

V. MONITORING ACTIONS

Collection and interpretation of utilization information is based on two companion documents, which include the *Principles of Interpreting Utilization Data* (University of Arizona, 2005) and the *Kaibab National Forest Guidelines for Obtaining and Analyzing Use Information* (2005). In addition, during years when low annual precipitation occurs the Forest will continue to use the *Kaibab National Forest Drought Policy Guidelines* that were developed in 2002.

Utilization monitoring will occur prior to, during and after livestock use in each pasture to assure that 40 percent or less of the utilization is occurring within the Homestead allotment and 30 percent within the Davenport Lake allotment, respectively. Regardless of the normal scheduled season of use, pastures that encompass Davenport, Depot and Dry Lake ephemeral bottoms (all within the Davenport Lake allotment) will not be stocked with livestock until "standing water has dissipated from these areas for ten days." Cattle will utilize other pastures during these periods. Whenever possible, the allotment permittee will be notified of these inspections prior to when they are conducted.

During inspections, monitoring will assure that salt or mineral supplements are not being placed within Mexican Spotted Owl restricted habitat.

General ocular monitoring of use or reading of utilization cages in key areas will be accomplished periodically during the grazing season in each pasture leading up to the time livestock are scheduled to rotate out of the pasture. If allowable utilization is met prior to the scheduled rotation date, livestock will be removed immediately.

Noxious weeds will be identified during field inspections and follow-up action will be implemented according to the *Noxious Weed Strategic Plan Working Guidelines* for the Kaibab National Forest.

VI. FLEXIBILITY

It is imperative that flexibility be considered when following this allotment management plan. Adjustments to the grazing sequence may be

necessary due to weather constraints (i.e. precipitation patterns favor or do not favor certain portions of the allotment), or management activities in an allotment or pasture (P J treatment or prescribed burning).

There may also be a need to vary livestock numbers to meet objectives. Drought may force the reduction of livestock numbers (refer to Kaibab National Forest Drought Policy) while on the other hand additional numbers above term permit may be appropriate in certain situations.